

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended). ~~An image input apparatus as claimed in claim 1,~~ An image input apparatus comprising:
an image formation unit array having a plurality of image formation units arranged in an array;
a photoelectric converter element having a flat photosensitive surface, the photosensitive surface being divided into regions, each corresponding to one of the image formation units, where each region includes a plurality of photosensitive elements arranged therein; and
a restricting member for restricting, independently for each of the plurality of image formation units, optical paths along which the light beams are focused,
wherein the plurality of image formation units individually receive light beams substantially from an identical area and focus the received light beams on different regions of the photosensitive surface of the photoelectric converter element to form two-dimensional images of a subject in corresponding regions of the photosensitive surface such that each two-dimensional image is an image of substantially the same area of an object in the identical area as seen from a different view point, and
wherein the restricting member is a polarizing filter array having polarizing filters arranged one for each group of the plurality of image formation units, every two adjacent polarizing filters having mutually perpendicular polarization angles.

7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) ~~An image input apparatus as claimed in claim 1,~~ further comprising:

An image input apparatus comprising:
an image formation unit array having a plurality of image formation units arranged in an
array;
a photoelectric converter element having a flat photosensitive surface, the photosensitive
surface being divided into regions, each corresponding to one of the image formation units, where
each region includes a plurality of photosensitive elements arranged therein;
a restricting member for restricting, independently for each of the plurality of image
formation units, optical paths along which the light beams are focused, wherein the plurality of
image formation units individually receive light beams substantially from an identical area and
focus the received light beams on different regions of the photosensitive surface of the photoelectric
converter element to form two-dimensional images of a subject in corresponding regions of the
photosensitive surface such that each two-dimensional image is an image of substantially the same
area of an object in the identical area as seen from a different view point; and
spectroscopic members provided one for each of the plurality of image formation units.

9-11 (cancelled).

12. (previously Presented) An image input apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the spectroscopic members are diffraction gratings.

13 (cancelled).

14. (previously presented) An image input apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the diffraction gratings have different grating constants in two mutually perpendicular directions.